



TOWN OF EAST WINDSOR

FIRST SELECTMAN JASON E. BOWSZA

Statement Concerning Improvement Work Undertaken at East Windsor Park

We are aware that some residents have some questions and concerns about the recent improvement activity taking place at East Windsor Park. I wanted to provide some clarity to the projects underway.

Last year, abutting property owners were notified by mail that there would be tree removal work taking place at the park. Abutters were given an opportunity to ask any questions that they may have had, and we specifically visited the one person who came forward at her home to address her concerns.

We have been in touch with an arborist and a landscape architect to confirm both the need for the trees to be removed and to design improvements afterwards. That work is still in process, so we continue to ask for patience until the project is complete.

The trees that had lined the park had become a cause for concern from a public safety standpoint and from a liability standpoint. In a number of instances during recent weather events, trees had fallen onto abutters' property, causing damage to sheds and lawns. This had resulted in the Town having to repair the damage.

Due to the proximity in which the trees were planted to each other, the interior trees did not properly root, leading to additional instability. When the exterior trees were removed, the interior trees would have been even weaker and in more dire likelihood of causing additional damage.

Additionally, removal of the trees along the perimeter added more than three-quarters of an acre to the park grounds. We will be putting in a walking trail along the perimeter, installing benches and other aesthetic improvements, and planting some decorative trees.

Most of the project was paid for out of Capital/Non-recurring funding available in the budget and for specifically this purpose. The balance of the cost was borne out of the Parks and Recreation program money. The work was contracted to Beaver Tree Removal, who is the Town's preferred vendor for tree work. Preferred vendor status is bid from time to time.

Again, we stress that the project is under way and we ask for people's patience as we complete the job. As early as next week, seeding and fertilizing is likely to take place, and we anticipate the freshly renovated park will be ready for the opening of the season this year.